

Manual and Automated Deterministic Scansion of the Homeric Corpus

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Abstract

Divergences between grammatical and prosodic metric values of the same syllable, poetic license, and synizesis are often cited as reasons to avoid engagement with Homeric prosody. This study develops a deterministic model for the manual scansion of the Homeric corpus requiring only basic knowledge of long, short, and dual syllables. The model is not based on subjective or ad hoc judgment but on explicit, concrete, prosodic imperative rules derived from a simple prosody arithmetic that predefines the general prosodic form of any verse.

The prosodic imperative bridges apparent divergences between grammatical and prosodic rules and, for training purposes, extends long, short, and dual syllables according to their prosodic tendencies while taking the surrounding syllables into account. All prosodic operations are fully justified and explained.

The model introduces an empirical and improvable Minimum Metric Error, allowing the isolation of the optimal solution when multiple valid solutions exist.

An accompanying C# tool implements the model, generating the prosody of any rhapsody within seconds and producing multiple statistical outputs.

Keywords: Homeros, prosody, hexameter, synizesis, metric analysis, deterministic model